

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 081324

53

ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 ISO-00 NEA-07 /024 R

DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:JSEGARS

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:WNEWLIN

S/S:WLUERS

----- 013312

O 221640Z APR 74 ZFF-

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL ATLANTA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 081324

TODEP 2

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 2362 SENT ACTION SECSTATE

INFO AMMAN BEIRUT CAIRO JERUSALEM, APRIL 22ND:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2362

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR IS

SUBJ: ISRAELI DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION

REF: TEL AVIV 2332

SUMMARY: LABOR PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, HAVING DECIDED
APRIL 21 TO PROCEED WITH ATTEMPT TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT,
CONVENES AGAIN APRIL 22, 5:00PM LOCAL TO VOTE BY SECRET BALLOT
ON ITS CANDIDATE AS PRIME MINISTER-DESIGNATE. FIELD OF CONDI-
DATES HAS NARROWED TO RABIN AND PERES, WITH MOST COMMENTATORS
BELIEVING THAT RABIN IS LIKELY TO BE SELECTED. OVER WEEKEND,
SAPIR THREW HIS SUPPORT TO RABIN AFTER CONFIRMING THAT HIS OWN
REFUSAL TO RUN WAS FINAL. PUBLICATION OF SECRET MEMORANDUM
RE-EVOKING OLD AND WELL KNOWN EPISODE OF RABIN'S "BREAKDOWN"
IN DAYS PRECEDING SIX-DAY WAR, AT WHICH TIME HE WAS CHIEF OF
STAFF, HAS PRODUCED STRONG NEGATIVE REACTION AND IF ANYTHING
APPEARS TO BE CREATING SYMPATHY FOR RABIN. TONIGHT'S
WINNER WILL FACE GREAT DIFFICULTIES IN TRYING TO FORM NEW
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 081324

GOVERNMENT, AND INDEED MAY NOT SUCCEED, SINCE NATIONAL

RELIGIOUS PARTY INSISTS ON UNITY GOVERNMENT AND INDEPENDENT
LIBERALS WANT NEW ELECTION. END SUMMARY.

1. LABOR PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE APRIL 21 DECIDED (283-170)
TO PROCEED WITH SELECTION OF A CANDIDATE TO TRY TO FORM NEW
GOVERNMENT, AND AT SAME TIME REJECTED MOTIONS CALLING FOR
EARLY NEW ELECTION. SAME BODY MEETS APRIL 22, 5:00PM
LOCAL TIME, TO VOTE BY SECRET BALLOT ON ITS PRIME MINISTER-
DESIGNATE WHOSE NAME THEREAFTER WILL SUBMITTED TO
PRESIDENT KATZIR FOR INITIATION OF NEW COALITION NEGOTIATIONS
PROCESS.

2. DEBATE IN CENTRAL COMMITTEE UNDERScored CONTINUING
DIVERGENCE OF VIEWS ON APPROPRIATE TACTICAL COURSE FOR PARTY
TO ADOPT. SECRETARY GENERAL YADLIN WARNED THAT FAILURE OF
PARTY TO SELECT CANDIDATE IMMEDIATELY TO TRY TO FORM NEW
GOVERNMENT COULD FORCE PRESIDENT KATZIR TO TURN TO LIKUD
LEADER BEGIN. KNESSET DELEGATION CHAIRMAN BARAM STRESSED
THAT, GIVEN CURRENT STATE OF PUBLIC DISSATISFACTION, LABOR PARTY
WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO IMPROVE ITS POSITION IN EARLY NEW ELECTION
AND STRONGLY URGED EFFORT TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT WITHOUT
RECOURSE TO ELECTORATE. IN CONTRAST, ALLON CHARACTERIZED
EFFORT TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT AS HOPELESS REARGUARD ACTION
AND INSISTED THAT THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE TO NEW ELECTION.
EBAN LAUNCHED STINGING, ANGRY ATTACK AGAINST THOSE WHO
WANTED TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT, DEFENDED ACHIEVEMENTS OF
MEIR CABINET AND URGED THAT IT CONTINUE IN CHARETAKER CAPACITY
UNTIL NEW ELECTION IS HELD. SAPIR ISSUED WARNING THAT NEW
CANDIDATE FOR PRIME MINISTER MIGHT BE FORCED "TO WANDER
AROUND" FOR MONTHS TRYING TO FORM A NEW COALITION. IN
ADDITION TO WELL KNOWN OBJECTIONS OF NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY
(NRP), SAPIR SAID THAT AN INDEPENDENT LIBERAL PARTY (ILP)
LEADER HAD INFORMED HIM THAT TNDENCY WITHIN ILP WAS IN
FAVOR OF NEW ELECTION AND AGAINST FORMATION OF MINORITY
GOVERNMENT (LABOR ALIGNMENT-ILP).

3. ATTENTION NOW FOCUSES ON SELECTION OF PARTY'S CANDIDATE
TO TRY TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT. OVER WEEKEND, RACE NARROWED
DOWN TO TWO CANDIDATES TO TRY TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT. AFTER
WEEK-LONG PERIOD IN WHICH ONLY PERES HAD OPENLY DECLARED HIS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 081324

CANDIDACY AND ALL OTHERS WERE WAITING TO FIND OUT WHETHER
SAPIR'S REFUSAL TO RUN WAS INDEED FINAL, SUSPENSE WAS BROKEN
ON APRIL 20 WHEN SAPIR ANNOUNCED THAT HE WAS THROWING HIS
SUPPORT TO RABIN. AT DEDICATION CEREMONY YESTEDAY
SAPIR, IN COMMENTING ON HIS SUPPORT FOR RABIN, TOLD ME
THAT HE THOUGH " WE SHOULD GIVE THE BOY (52 YEARS OLD) A
CHANCE," BUT HE DID NOT THINK A NEW GOVT COULD BE
FORMED. AT THE SAME TIME, SAPIR RETIERATED TO ME HIS

PREVIOUS STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD NOT BE A CANDIDATE FOR THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

4. IN ATTEMPT TO BLOCK RABIN'S CANDIDACY, EZER WEIZMAN (FORMER AIR FORCE COMMANDER AND CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF BRANCH DURING 1967 WAR, SUBSEQUENTLY HERUT POLITICAN WHO ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO UNSEAT MENAHEM BEGIN) THIS WEEKEND RELEASED NOVEMBER 1967 SECRET MEMORANDUM ACCUSING RABIN OF HAVING SUFFERED A "BREAKDOWN" IN PERIOD PRECEDING OUTBREAK OF SIX-DAY WAR WHEN RABIN WAS CHIEF OF STAFF AND OF HAVING BEEN TENSE AND PANICKY DURING WAR; WEIZMAN DECLARED THAT THIS BACKGROUND SHOULD DISQUALIFY RABIN FROM PRIME MINISTERSHIP.

5. PUBLICATION OF WEIZMAN'S MEMO IN WEEKEND PRESS HAS ALREADY EVOKED SHARP NEGATIVE REACTION. PERES HAS STATED THAT HE REGRETS ITS RELEASE AND EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL PREFERENCE FOR A CLEAN COMPETITION. TRANSPORT MINISTER YARIV HAS CHARACTERIZED IT AS AN EXAMPLE OF CHARACTER ASSASSINATION FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. EX-GENERAL ARIEL SHARON IN SHRP REBUKE STATED THAT SOMEONE WHO HAD "DESERTED" FROM POLITICAL ACTIVITY (REFERENCE TO WEIZMAN'S RESIGNATION FROM HERUT) HAD NO RIGHT TO INTERFERE IN LEGITIMATE INTERNAL POLITICAL STRUGGLE OF ANY PARTY. MOREOVER, SHARON SAID, RABIN DESERVED CREDIT FOR HAVING BUILT AND LED THE ARMY WHICH ACHIEVED VICTORY IN SIX-DAY WAR.

6. RABIN HIMSELF IN DIGNIFIED RESPONSE SAID THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO ENTER INTO CONTROVERSY OVER WEIZMAN'S MOTIVATIONS IN RELEASING REPORT AT THIS TIME AND STATED THAT HE HAD IN FACT ASKED WEIZMAN TO ACT AS COS FOR 24 HOURS IN MAY 1967 WHILE HE WAS RESTING FROM INTENSIVE PREPARATORY ACTIVITY BEFORE THE WAR, AFTER WHICH HE RETURNED TO HIS COMMAND. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 081324

WE WOULD NOTE, PARENTETICALLY, THAT STORY REGARDING RABIN'S STATE OF HEALTH BEFORE 1967 WAR IS NOT NEW AND HAS ALREADY APPEARED IN PUBLISHED ACCOUNTS IN BOTH HEBREW AND ENGLISH. NEVERTHELESS, SEVERAL PAPERS APRIL 22 CALL ON RABIN TO PROVIDE FULLER ACCOUNT OF EPISODE.

7. AS TO IMPACT OF WEIZMAN'S MEMO ON OUTCOME OF TODAY'S VOTING, WE BELIEVE THAT IF ANYTHING IT MAY LEAD TO SYMPATHY VOTES FOR RABIN, ENHANCING HIS ALREADY CONSIDERABLE PROSPECTS. AT PRESENT, WE UNDERSTAND THAT MOST OF AHDUT AVODAH IS FOR RABIN, MOST OF RAFI IS FOR PERES, WITH DOMINANT MAPAI GROUPING LEANING TO RABIN. WHILE SURPRISES CANNOT BE EXCLUDED, MOST POLITICAL COMMENTATORS SEE RABIN AS FAVORITE TO WIN THIS EVENING'S ELECTION. ZADOK HAS TOLD ME THAT WITH SAPIR'S SUPPORT RABIN WAS CERTAIN TO WIN.

8. WHETHER TONIGHT'S WINNER COULD THEREAFTER SUCCEED IN
FORMING NEW GOVT HOWEVER IS PROBLEMATIC. IN ANY CASE DOMINANT
VIEW IS THAT, WHETHER CURRENT GOVT
CONTINUES IN CARETAKER CAPACITY OR NEW GOVT IS
FORMED, THERE WILL BE AN ELECTION LATER THIS YEAR OR
EARLY NEXT YEAR.
KEATING

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, NATIONAL ELECTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, ELECTION CANDIDATES, TODEP 2
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE081324
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:JSEGARS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740093-0972
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740424/aaaaavbx.tel
Line Count: 180
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TEL AVIV 2332
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IS, LABOR PARTY, (RABIN)
To: ATLANTA IMMEDIATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005